

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
November 8, 2007, 4:10 p.m.
235/237 Commons MPR

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2007

Report of the Executive Committee

- Bruce Barry, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Update on national athletic reform issues, including activity at the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics.

- Virginia Shepherd, Chair-elect of the Faculty Senate

Presentation on the Status and Future of Student Media at Vanderbilt

- Chris Carroll, Executive Director, Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc.

Discussion: Integration of Faculty into the Intellectual Life of Students outside the Classroom. Panel:

- Mark Bandas, Associate Provost and Dean of Students
- Howard Sandler, Associate Provost for Special Projects
- Frank Wcislo, Dean of the Commons

New Business

Good of the Senate

Voting Members present: Ahner, Barry, Blair, Breyer, Calico, Christie, DeHart, Dowdy, Eisenberg, Emeson, Ernst, Fogo, Galloway, Hiebert, Jennings, McCarty, Neely, Norden, Paschal, Piston, Reisenberg, Reschly, Roberts, Rousseau, Shepherd, Shields, Slovis, Stone, Wcislo, and Weller.

Voting Members absent: Armour (regrets), Benbow, Bernard, Bloch (regrets), Bradford (regrets), Braxton, Burk (regrets), Carter (regrets), Conway-Welch, Gabbe, Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Kirshner (regrets), Lindquist (regrets), McLendon (regrets), Medina, Moore, Oliver, Retzlaff (regrets), Rubin, Sandler (regrets), Sharpley-Whiting (regrets), Shiavi, Steinberg, Wait (regrets), Wasserstein (regrets), Wood (regrets), and Yarbrough.

Ex Officio Members present: Brisky, Damon, Fuchs, Gotterer, Gherman, McNamara, Sandler, Schoenfeld.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balsler, Barge, Chalkley (regrets), Hall (regrets), Jacobson (regrets), Outlaw, Tolk (regrets), Williams, Zeppos (regrets).

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Bruce Barry.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the September, 2007 minutes

Minutes from the 9/6/07 meeting were reviewed and Chair Barry asked for any corrections or adjustments. Hearing none, he stated that the minutes stand approved.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Barry gave an update on the Chancellor Search Advisory committee. The advisory committee has delivered its report to the Board of Trust Search committee and their work is done.

Chair Barry then gave an update from the standing committees. He said the APS committee is considering new degree proposals. Faculty Life is reviewing the technology transfer proposal. They are also looking at the results of the Faculty Survey. The Student Life committee is looking at student mental health issues, and the Executive Committee has been pushing to raise Vanderbilt's profile on LGBT issues. PEAFF is working on a few grievances. Senate Affairs committee is meeting w/Nick about communication issues.

Chair Barry said that the Executive Committee has had input into the University Athletics committee and the search committee for the new librarian. He mentioned that he is moving ahead on sustainability issues, and that there is a meeting tomorrow morning on this issue. He also mentioned graduate student transportation and the online posting of syllabi as issues that are important to students. Senator Ann Neely mentioned that APS dealt with the issue of online posting of syllabi last year, and sent a report to Associate Provost Lou Outlaw.

Next Item on the Agenda – Update on national athletic reform issues, including activity at the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics

Chair-elect Virginia Shepherd gave an update on the activities of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). She is currently Vanderbilt's representative to the COIA and also the co-chair of the national organization. She explained that the most recent recommendations from COIA have been published in the Framing the Future report (link to the report:

<http://www.neuro.uoregon.edu/%7Eetublitz/COIA/FTF/FTFtext&appendix.pdf>).

Senator Cynthia Paschal: Is the Framing the Future report available?

Chair-elect Shepherd: I will have Andrea Hewitt-Gibson post a link on the Senate website.

Chair Barry thanked Chair-elect Shepherd for her report and hard work.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation on the Status and Future of Student Media at Vanderbilt

Chair Barry then introduced Chris Carroll, Executive Director, Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. and Glenna DeRoy, student and editor of the Vanderbilt Hustler. Chris gave an overview of the history of student communications at Vanderbilt. He said that the reason that the student communication was made independent was to shield the university from liability. But the other effect was that it gave the students an independent voice. He said that student media includes The Commodore (yearbook), The Vanderbilt Hustler (weekly paper), WRVU (radio station), Versus (Student general interest magazine), The Vanderbilt Review (student art, fiction, and poetry), Vanderbilt TV (seen only on campus), Orbis (student ideological publication—liberal slant), The Torch (conservative slant), The Slant (student publication—satirical magazine), and Inside Vandy, the new website. They are also the operators of the Tennessee High School Press Association.

Chris added that Student Media has a \$1.14 million operating budget; 33.8% is from subsidies from student fees (the rest is self-funded). They are located in the Sarratt Student Center. He added that 1 in 10 undergraduate students are contributors. He ended by stating their three top priorities: 1) to provide the campus with a forum for discussion, 2) for student development, 3) to help students who want to become journalists.

Glenna DeRoy showed the new website for student media, Inside Vandy. She said that there were 45,000 unique visitors to Inside Vandy last month, and it won the Best Online news source in the south last year. Chair Barry thanked them both for their presentations.

Next Item on the Agenda – Discussion: Integration of Faculty into the Intellectual Life of Students outside the Classroom

Chair Barry then introduced the panel to discuss the topic, “Integration of Faculty into the Intellectual Life of Students outside the Classroom.” The panel consisted of: Mark Bandas, Associate Provost and Dean of Students, Howard Sandler, Associate Provost for Special Projects, Frank Wcislo, Dean of the Commons, and Sharon Shields, Peabody Senator and a Head of Household.

Chair Barry explained that this panel was not about The Commons per se, but about how to integrate faculty into intellectual life of students outside the classroom.

Associate Provost Howard Sandler: He stated that this will be a residential campus for freshman as of next year. He said that expectations have been created for these students, and the faculty will be expected to help meet these expectations. He mentioned that he needs help from faculty, departments, and schools in this area. One thing worth thinking about is, “how to expand programs that bring students and faculty together.” He said that the group that has been lagging is the faculty—he challenged the faculty to catch up.

Associate Provost Mark Bandas: He said that he thinks that the Commons and Vanderbilt Visions are indicative of a deeper change in Vanderbilt's culture. He gave a series of examples as to what kinds of programs faculty are involved with that have to do with undergraduate students as a means to get faculty to think about how they can become involved, too.

Senator Sharon Shields: She said that as a member of the faculty, she thinks that there has been a lot said about the expectations placed on us, and that it is difficult to negotiate the different choices that are out there. She said that she has found it very rewarding to interact with undergraduate students. She says that she is seeing a more sustainable way to make these interactions. The Commons is the first step, but there is a 20 year plan that will change campus life to make it more residential. The heads of houses need your help—there will be a Faculty Associates program that she hopes you will participate in to be in community with these students. She will be calling and inviting you to our house and the other heads of house will be doing the same.

Dean Frank Weislo: Faculty will be experiencing students in different ways in the Commons. Vanderbilt is undergoing change in the way that we structure the university. As we think as faculty members about our role in the future, we need to keep in mind that we are modeling lives for our students. The big question: what does student life have to do with my research? We have to realize that we are modeling that behavior, and we need to find ways to value that contribution to the university. One time, once a year—get involved.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business and Good of the Senate

Chair Barry then called for any items under New Business or Good of the Senate. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Emeson,
Vice Chair